



GCE A level

1254/03

LAW –LA4

**UNIT 4: UNDERSTANDING LAW IN CONTEXT:
FREEDOM, THE STATE AND THE INDIVIDUAL
OPTION 3: FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

P.M. TUESDAY, 31 January 2012

2½ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **two** questions from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 25 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

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You are reminded that this paper contains a synoptic element in Section B and will test understanding of the connections between the different elements of the subject.

UNIT 4 : UNDERSTANDING LAW IN CONTEXT

OPTION 3: FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SECTION A

Answer two questions from this section.

1. “The law of the United Kingdom provides complete protection against all forms of discrimination.” Discuss. [25]

2. Consider whether the protection of human rights within the United Kingdom would be strengthened by the introduction of a Bill of Rights. [25]

3. “Of all the rights which are enjoyed by persons in the United Kingdom, the freedom to practise one’s religion is among the best protected by law.” Discuss. [25]

4. Consider whether the tort of breach of confidence provides an adequate solution to the problem of media intrusion in the lives of ordinary citizens. [25]

SECTION B

Answer one question from this section.

5. Study the text below and answer the questions based on it.

“Secret surveillance by the police does not only affect the privacy of people who are suspected of wrong-doing. Their families, friends, and even casual acquaintances may become the subject of police investigation without ever being aware that their privacy is being invaded. Such powers require the most stringent controls if they are to be acceptable in a free society.”

- (a) Explain what controls are in place to govern the exercise of secret surveillance by the police. [11]
- (b) Evaluate the impact of the Human Rights Act 1998 upon the protection of human rights within the United Kingdom. [14]

6. Study the text below and answer the questions based on it.

“Contempt of court evolved originally to uphold the authority and dignity of the courts. Nowadays the courts display a fairly relaxed attitude in face of criticism, and the form of contempt known as “scandalising the court” has more or less fallen into disuse. However, contempt of court still plays an important role in the administration of justice. In today’s society, its main function is to ensure that everyone who comes before the courts receives a fair trial. Contempt of court can therefore be justified on the ground that it contributes to upholding the Rule of Law.”

- (a) Explain what is meant by contempt of court. [11]
- (b) Evaluate the importance of the Rule of Law. [14]